

Farm and Weather Summary, Central Iowa Farms

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Farm Comments

The Central Iowa Farms consist of farmland in Story, Boone, and Polk counties. There were 1,847 acres farmed by local farmers as custom operators. These acres were used for large-scale research, equipment testing, silage production, and manure application. Small-scale plots consisted of 113 acres. The student-managed Ag 450 Farm rented 285 acres, of which 103 acres were 50/50 sharecropped. The student-operated organic farm used 5 acres.

Thirty-two people attended a native grass establishment field day at the Kelley Farm. The field day was cohosted by the Boone and Story County Natural Resources Conservation Services. Sixty people attended a water quality field day, which was hosted at the Kelley Farm. Sixteen international visitors from Asia toured the Bilsland Farm wetland.

New Projects: A 14-acre piece of land at the Marsden/Paulson Farm and a 2-acre piece at the East Kelley Farm were enrolled in the USDA Farmable Wetland program. No-till soybeans were planted as part of a pasture renovation on 59 acres of beef and sheep pasture. New or altered research projects include combine cleanout, Mark Hanna; corn pollen drift, Mark Westgate; and European corn borer movement and distribution, Brendon Reardon. Nineteen acres at the Kelley Farm and 20 acres at the Bilsland Farm were also enrolled in the USDA Farmable Wetland program.

Crop Season Comments

Oats were seeded at the Ankeny location on March 24 and yielded 134 bushels/acre. Corn planting began April 13 and was completed on May 5. Corn silage yields ranged from 24 to 28.5 tons/acre at 62% to 68% moisture. Corn grain yields ranged from 160 to 228 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting began May 8 and was completed June 8. Yields ranged from 42 to 76 bushels/acre. Fields south of Ames received large hail and 6 in. of rain in one storm on May 21–22. Fall harvesting began September 27 and was completed November 18. Triticale was seeded on October 8 on 38 acres at the Been Farm in preparation for a triticale cattle feeding trial.

Weather Comments

Weather data for all farms in this progress report are shown in Table 1 in the Ag Engineering/Agronomy Farm article, page 3.